UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/GAB/4/EXTENSION I
17 March 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-ninth session
4-29 May 1992, Geneva
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country, intercountry and global programmes

EXTENSION OF THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR GABON

Note by the Administrator

Period covered by the extension	Resources	$
January 1991-December 1992	IPF:	1 065 000
	Estimated cost-sharing:	1 097 130
		2 162 130

I. JUSTIFICATION

1. The fourth country programme for Gabon was approved by the Governing Council at its special session in February 1988 and related to the period from January 1988 to December 1990. The programme was formulated in the context of the Government's preparation of a programme of structural adjustment that became effective in April 1988. It was implemented in an atmosphere of economic recession aggravated by the social disturbances that preceded the establishment in 1990 of new democratic institutions in the country.

2. The degradation of financial balances was thereafter aggravated by the cost of social measures and the disturbances occurring in economic activity.

3. By reason of this context of crisis and of restrictive budgetary measures taken by the Government to restore the balance of public finances, the resources allocated to the fourth programme as part of cost-sharing have diminished quite appreciably, making it necessary to revise downwards some of its objectives, to abandon some others or to continue them with a time horizon more distant than the one initially established for the programme.

4. At the same time, new dimensions have emerged and new lines of cooperation have been imposed, in response to the new problems brought on by the crisis. This was true more particularly with regard to the urgent need to establish economic

92-12494 140492 140492 150492

development on broader bases, to take into consideration at the same time the social dimension of the process of structural adjustment and, lastly, to formulate the elements of a frame of reference for a long-term development strategy.

5. Moreover, the year 1991 saw a more concrete formulation of the democratic process in the country with the development of a new constitution and the establishment of the first multi-party National Assembly, thus creating the conditions for a broad national debate on the new orientations to be given the country's policy for socio-economic development.

6. These debates coincided with the evaluation of the first phase of the structural adjustment, which was completed in the same year, and the recommendations made by UNDP in its advisory note of 1991 on the objectives and priority subjects of cooperation for the fifth cycle. Those recommendations, accepted by the Government in September 1991, give priority to strategic UNDP actions within the framework of a programme approach in the key sectors of planning and economic management, social action to benefit the most vulnerable groups, the environment and participatory development.

7. As a result, on the one hand, of the magnitude and complexity of the orientational changes thus proposed for future UNDP cooperation and, on the other hand, of the need to negotiate them and programme them in the context of the new opening of civil society which has made it possible to democratize the country's political institutions, the Government has found it necessary to ask for an extension of the fourth programme for a period of two years. The presentation of the fifth programme to the Governing Council would therefore be postponed until the council's fortieth session (1993).

II. OBJECTIVES

8. UNDP actions taken as a part of cooperation within the framework of the fourth programme thus extended until December 1992 will be centred on two essential concerns:

9. (a) Managing and, in some cases, restructuring currently implemented projects with a view to integrating into them the new approaches agreed upon with the Government, in particular the strengthening of participation by the beneficiary populations in order to increase the impact and the permanency of the development actions undertaken, to improve the way in which the resources and support capacities of the private sector are taken into account and to promote the sectoralization of development objectives;

(b) Preparing, as part of the new orientations adopted for the next cycle, a national environmental plan of action in close consultation with the main donors acting in the spheres of forestry and the environment and initiating a programme of prospective studies with the cooperation, during the initial phase, of the regional NLTPS programme. The preparatory work for launching the exercise of national analysis and programming of technical cooperation and the intervention of the Management Development Programme in order to provide support for the structural reforms of economic management will also be pursued.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

9. The Administrator therefore recommends that the Governing Council should approve the extension of the fourth programme for Gabon for a period of two years, beginning on 1 January 1992.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING

A. Resources required for the period of the extension

	$	$
IPF	1 065 000	
Cost-sharing	1 097 130	
Subtotal		2 162 130

B. Carryover to the fifth cycle after the period of the extension

IPF	1 204 000	
Cost-sharing	894 000	
Subtotal		2 098 000
Total		4 260 000